

# The Hour

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## PRO-WILLKIE ADVERTISEMENT ENDORSES FASCIST PROPAGANDA

On Thursday, September 26, a full-page political advertisement entitled "WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MIRACLE OF PHILADELPHIA?" appeared on page 19 of the New York Times. The advertisement, endorsing Wendell L. Willkie for president, was placed by the pro-Willkie organization called We, The People. In addition to listing the reasons for electing their candidate, the organization suggested certain activities to be carried on by individual Willkie sympathizers. Among the suggestions was this one:

"Read the following material -- and then see that in the next four weeks some, or all, of it is in the hands of every on-the-fence voter that you can find. The pamphlets -- all of them -- can be read in two hours -- and some of them can be read in two minutes. Most are free -- some cost a small amount."

The first two pamphlets recommended are by Wendell Willkie: their titles, We, The People and Acceptance Address. The third work listed is the Essay on Liberty by John Stewart Mill.

The fourth pamphlet recommended is a piece of anti-Semitic fascist literature. Its title is The Fifth Column In Washington. Its author is Joseph P. Kamp, who for some time has been notorious as a distributor of anti-democratic, anti-labor, anti-Semitic and pro-fascist propaganda.

The Hour on August 17, August 24 and September 14 carried articles describing the nature of the booklet and the character of its author, who formerly was editor and publisher of the fascist magazine Awakener. As The Hour pointed out, Kamp at one time concentrated his efforts on circulating the famous anti-Semitic forgery known as the "Benjamin Franklin Letter"; in this connection he worked closely with William Dudley Pelley. Another anti-Jewish work distributed in large quantities by Kamp was the pamphlet Why Are The Jews Persecuted For Their Religion? Among the anti-labor propaganda written and distributed by Kamp was the booklet Join the CIO -- and Help Build a SOVIET AMERICA.

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Kamp's associates and admirers include such U. S. Fifth Columnists as the following: James True, contact man for the Nazis and editor of the anti-labor, anti-democratic Industrial Control Reports; Allen Zoll, Coughlinite indicted as a blackmailer; General George Van Horn Mosley, noted pro-Hitlerite; Joseph E. McWilliams, petty fuehrer of the American Destiny Party; and John E. Kelley, New Jersey fascist who speaks for the German-American Bund, the Christian Front and similar organizations.

This question occurs to The Hour: does Mr. Willkie and does the Republican Party intend to accept and encourage the support of such fascist propagandists as Joseph P. Kamp?

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## THE ACTIVITIES OF MERWIN K. HART

### Some Facts About the Man Who Recently Addressed a Famous New York Club

During the last few days the fascistically-inclined Merwin K. Hart, president of the New York State Economic Council, has received more than his usual share of publicity. On September 19, he delivered an address before the swank Union League Club in New York. The speech, given at the first of a series of "true Americanism" luncheons, was a typical Hart diatribe. He attacked democracy, saying "it is time to brush aside this word 'democracy' with its connotations." He declared the nation was getting "soft." His anti-Semitic references were ill-disguised. Using a device in current favor among anti-Semites, he denounced "refugees" and the "international liberals" who "want to involve us with other nations ... to drag us into their wars." In order to leave no doubt as to whom he meant by these "international liberals," he added, "Blinded by fury at the persecution of minorities in Germany, this force would be as willing to engulf us in this ... war ... as it was willing to engulf Britain and France."

### Hart in the Times

The New York Times, on September 20, devoted a page-length column to its report of Hart's address. Presenting Hart in a far from unfavorable light, the report told that, "His audience heard him in grim silence. Many came up afterwards to shake his hand." Regarding Hart's organization, the Times said that, according to its president, "The New York State Economic Council, with other groups, had begun a nationwide movement to remove from the schools any books that breed dissatisfaction with the American system."

On September 21 the Times printed an editorial gently chiding Hart -- for using certain words incorrectly. The editorial observed, "If he was trying to draw a logical distinction between 'republican' and 'democratic' forms of government, he may have had some logic on his side," and added "We don't think Mr. Hart meant to align himself with such an enemy [to democracy]. We do think he ought to have been more careful of his words, which might well give comfort to foes who despise both the forms and the realities of human freedom." On the day after the editorial appeared, the Times gave up another full column to a long-winded letter from Hart, which -- criticizing the editorial -- quoted at length from his speech and further "explained" his position.

## Hart's Literary Efforts

The fact is that a major portion of Merwin K. Hart's speech was quoted from a book of which he is author, entitled, America -- Look At Spain. This book, while attacking democracy throughout the world, praises the fascism that has come to Spain. The anti-Semitism in Spain is excused with historical analogies: "In 1469 Ferdinand of Aragon married Isabella of Castile. They recognized the imperative need for unity ... They began the enforced conversion (and expulsion) of non-Christian elements in the land." A pamphlet advertising this book includes recommendations from prominent anti-Semites. Among these are the gentlemen-fascist John B. Trevor, head of the American Coalition, and John B. Snow, director of the League for Constitutional Government, who deals in the Protocols of Zion and other anti-Semitic literature. The Coughlinite Brooklyn Tablet also endorsed America -- Look At Spain.

Is Your Town Red? is the name of another literary effort indicative of Hart's views. This booklet, published by the New York State Economic Council, with a foreword written by Hart, attempts to prove that fascism is no menace to the United States and that the danger to this country comes entirely from "liberal" elements. The booklet lists literature which it recommends, including works by such hyper-reactionary and anti-Semitic individuals and organizations as; Elizabeth Dilling, American Vigilante Intelligence Federation (headed by the notorious Harry A. Jung), the League for Constitutional Government.

## Hart's Fascist Friends

Whether or not Hart is reluctant to "align himself" with enemies of U. S. democracy, is best shown by the company he keeps. Among his associates and friends are outstanding American fascists: Father Coughlin, for whose publication, Social Justice, Hart wrote an article entitled "There Is No Want In National Spain"; Allen Zoll, anti-Semite indicted on charges of attempted extortion and former fuehrer of the American Patriots; Patrick Scanlon, well-known friend of the Christian Front; Father Edward Lodge Curran, warm supporter of Coughlin; Gerald K. Smith, midwest petty fuehrer; John B. Trevor; John B. Snow; etc. On December 8, 1938, Hart held a meeting made notable by the presence of Fritz Kuhn. On December 16 of the same year he spoke at a pro-Franco rally of the American Patriots arranged by Allen Zoll. He was chairman of the "Pro-American" mass meeting on February 19, 1940 at the Seventh Regiment Armory in New York; his collaborator in staging this affair was again Allen Zoll.

The New York State Economic Council, has conducted an anti-democratic, anti-labor campaign since Hart founded it in 1931. Early in 1940 he organized an affiliate body called the American Parents Committee on Education. The committee, with offices at the 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City, the same address as that of the Council, is devoted to similar reactionary activities, placing particular emphasis upon the educational fields.

It appears that Merwin K. Hart makes a business of aligning himself with those "who despise both the forms and realities of human freedom."

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## CHRISTIAN FRONT BECOMES "PATRIOTIC"

## Members Moving Into Nationalistic Organizations

The men behind the Christian Front have decided that, in order to take advantage of the growing national tension in this country, their fascist organization must assume a more "patriotic" aspect. Both publicly and privately, Father Charles E. Coughlin has expressed this view; and Father Edward F. Brophy, Coughlin's eastern representative, is relaying the message to key Christian Fronters in the territory that falls under his supervision. Word is being passed along that this "patriotism" should be evidenced in the coining of nationalistic slogans and in the holding of "pro-America" meetings. Members of the Front are also being told that their new found love of country should lead them, wherever possible, into leading positions in other vigilante and hyper-patriotic organizations.

One of the results of this campaign has been a rebirth of the activities of the Paul Revere Sentinels in New York City. This pro-Nazi band, which had become almost defunct, recently experienced a sudden influx of Coughlinites, who energetically set about rejuvenating the group. Under the guidance of these fresh forces, the Sentinels have re-opened their headquarters at the Murray Hill Hotel, 114 Park Avenue. The anti-Semitic rallies now being held at the hotel are attended by many familiar faces. To name a few: George A. Van Nossdall, former German-American Bund leader and prominent Coughlinite; Mrs. Eva Ording and Mrs. Eleanor Schuyler, Daughters of the American Revolution and staunch Christian Front supporters; O'Kelly, present head of the Sentinels and disciple of Coughlin.

## Paul Revere and Father Brophy

The current meetings of the Sentinels are marked by a jingoistic fervor. At a gathering on September 5, Mrs. Ording, in her eagerness to get the fascist movement under way on a nation-wide basis, proposed that the Sentinels hire a group of buses which would tour the countryside and "rouse the people as Paul Revere roused them." Her motion, although applauded, was defeated on the grounds that it was not yet practicable.

At all the meetings, Father Brophy's The Christian Front -- Coughlinite Mein Kampf -- is prominently displayed, as are Social Justice and the Brooklyn Tablet. The group is occasionally honored by the presence of Brophy himself. And it is an ill-kept secret that Paul Revere Sentinels in executive positions frequently meet with the Naziphile priest, to receive his direction and advice.

## CORRECTION

On September 21, The Hour stated that Henry George Curtiss' real name is Henry Gaede; this was intended to read John Gaede. The Hour is now informed that John Gaede is also an alias, that Curtiss' actual name is a secret he alone knows and a secret he is very eager to keep.